

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05607 211540Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 OES-06 /029 W

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R 211428Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USINFO WASHINGTONDC

USNMR SHAPE

SECSTATE WASHDC 6460

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MADRID 5607

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

USIA FOR IOP/F MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:MEDIA REACTION: VIKING TO MARS

SPANISH PRESS GIVES WIDE AND CONTINUING COVERAGE
OF VIKING TO MARS. MOST ARTICLES AND PICTURES ARE
FRONTPAGED. SAMPLES FOLLOW:

NATIONAL MOVEMENT ORGAN ARriba FRONT PAGES 2/3
PAGE PHOTO WITH HEAD: "WITH TOTAL SUCCESS... VIKING
LANDED." INSIDE PHOTO OF PRES. FORD TELEPHONING NASA
WITH HEAD "FIRST PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN SENT AND
WITHIN 20 DAYS IT WILL BE KNOWN IF THERE IS LIFE ON THE
PLANET."

MONARCHIST ABC FRONTPAGES 5/8 PAGE PHOTO OF VIKING
MODEL WITH BANNER HEAD: "VIKING IS NOW ON MARS." INSIDE
LEAD ARTICLE, DATED PASADENA, REPORTS THAT MILLIONS
OF AMERICANS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, WATCHED LANDING ON MARS,
AND FORD'S CONTACT WITH PROJECT MANAGER JIM
MARTIN AND NASA ADMINISTRATOR DR. FLETCHER.

ROMAN CATHOLIC YA RUNS NO VIKING PICTURES. INSIDE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05607 211540Z

LEAD NEWS ARTICLE UNDER LARGE HEADLINE "THERE ARE NO

SIGNS OF LIFE," REPORTS THAT THE OPERATION MET "WITH FULL
SUCCESS AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF EFFORTS BY AMERICAN TECHICIANS
AND EXPERTS."

LIBERAL EL PAIS DEVOTED TOTAL BACK COVER TO VIKING,
WITH HEAD: "THE FIRST PHOTOS TAKEN ON MARS ARRIVE" AND
3/8 PAGE PHOTO TAKEN ON MARS BY VIKING. INTERESTINGLY,
WHILE STORY HAS PASADENA DATELINE, AND REFERS ONCE EACH TO
MARTIN AND DR. FLETCHER, THERE IS NO MENTION THAT THE
PROJECT IS US-CONCEIVED AND RUN. ITEM.
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